SPY×FAMILY
MISSION 62 PART 3
BY TATSUYA ENDO

WHERE IS YOUR GUN?
I DON'T HAVE ONE! I'M UNARMED!
I surrender!

YOU'RE OSTANIAN INFANTRY, YEAH?
CHAK

GAAAH! A WESTALIS SOLDIER!

I... LOOK, I DESERTED.
I JUST COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE.
BUT I GOT LOST AND HAVE BEEN WANDERING AROUND IN THESE MOUNTAINS FOR TWO WHOLE DAYS...

PLEASE! CAN'T YOU GIVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT?!
CHAK
I DON'T HAVE RATIONS TO SPARE ON DEAD MEN.
Say goodbye.
WAIT!

PLEEEEASE! I'M BEGGING YOU! I DON'T WANNA DIE HAVING NEVER BEEN WITH A WOMAN!

PFFT!
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?

...MANAGED TO SEEM HUMAN...

SOMEHOW EVEN THE ENEMY...

PUFF

PUFF

ALL RIGHT. I CAN GIVE YOU ONE CIGARETTE.

TRANSLATION: CASEY LOE

LETTERING: RINA MAPA

スゥ〜〜〜…

FSHOOO

BUT YOU KNOW, THEY ACTUALLY DID SOME INTERESTING RESEARCH AT THAT UNIVERSITY!

BUT THE THING IS...

AND THAT MEANS IT'S HUMAN NATURE TO WANT TO AVOID VIOLENCE.

AND THEY SHOWED SIGNS OF DISCOMFORT CUZ THEIR BRAINS EMPATHIZED WITH THE GUY'S PAIN.

HUH?

What's he babbling about?

LIKE, THEY GOT ALL THESE TEST SUBJECTS AND SHOWED 'EM A FILM OF A GUY GETTING SLAPPED, RIGHT?

THIS GUY REMEMBERS I'VE GOT A GUN ON HIM, RIGHT?

I MEAN, DOESN'T THAT FREAK YOU OUT? THEY HAVE NO IDEA IF THEY'RE BEING TOLD THE TRUTH. BUT ONCE THE IDEA'S IN THEIR HEADS, THEY DO A COMPLETE 180. WEIRD, RIGHT?

I DUNNO WHAT THE EXACT STATISTICS ARE, BUT ...

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED? WHEN THEY WATCHED IT, THE SUBJECTS' BRAINS SHOWED SIGNS OF PLEASURE!

THEY RAN THE EXPERIMENT AGAIN, AND THIS TIME THEY TOLD THE SUBJECTS, "THE GUY'S GETTING SLAPPED BY HIS LOVER BECAUSE HE CHEATED ON HER."

SO WHY IS IT THAT ALL OF US WORTHLESS PEONS GOTTA BE THE ONES TO CLEAN UP THEIR MESS?

I'M JUST SAYING, ISN'T IT STUPID? THIS WHOLE WAR BETWEEN EAST AND WEST, IT'S ALL THE RESULT OF SOME DIPLOMATIC FIASCO.

JUST SAY WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY!

IT'S THE MOST POINTLESS THING IN THE WORLD.

AND THEN WE DIE.

THEY TELL US TO HATE EACH OTHER.

SO WE FIGHT.

GRRR

THERE'RE EVEN RUMORS WESTALIS GOT OPERATIVES FROM SOME OTHER COUNTRY TO INCITE THE OSTANIAN ARMY INTO DOING IT.

THEY SAY THAT FIRST BOMBING OF LUWEN WAS A FALSE FLAG OPERATION.

IN THE EAST, THEY SAY IT WAS THE WEST THAT STARTED IT.

YEAH, EXCEPT IT'S YOU OSTANIANS THAT STARTED THIS WAR.

I'M JUST SAYING, HOW COULD A BUNCH OF FOOT SOLDIERS LIKE US KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT ANYTHING?!

YEAH! YEAH, RIGHT, OF COURSE IT IS!

CHAK

THAT'S JUST BLATANT PROPA-GANDA TO GET YOUR COUNTRY OFF THE HOOK!

...

WELL, I'M IN THE EXACT SAME BOAT!

... EVERY LAST ONE OF MY FRIENDS!

THOSE BOMBS KILLED ...

THERE'S YOUR TRUTH!

THAT DAY!

THAT BOMB-ING!

YOU STOLE EVERYTHING FROM MY WORLD!

THIS IS ALL YOUR SIDE'S FAULT!

KRAK

OOF!

LIKE HELL YOU ARE!

I'VE SEEN ALL SORTS OF EVIL DEEDS.

OH, I'VE SEEN THEM.

TO AVENGE THE DEATHS OF—

NGH ...

THUD

THAT'S WHY I PAY THEM BACK IN KIND.

And you know these Ostanian monsters? You've witnessed their evil deeds, have you?

NGH!

BANG

THMP

THWIP

THWIP

THWIP

THWIP

THWIP

GYAH!

THWIP THWIP THWIP

WELL, NO WAY IN HELL AM I LETTING THEM CATCH ME!

FWISH

THANKS FOR THE CIGARETTE, I GUESS!

SEE YA!

GUH ...

THE OSTANIAN ARMY SQUAD THAT'S BEEN CHASING ME!

YOU JUST HAD TO TRY AND SHOOT ME AND GIVE OUR POSITION AWAY!

WHAT IS THIS ...?

HUFF! HUFF!

OOF...

STUMBLE

THNK

WOBBLE

DAM-MIT!

WHAT ON EARTH AM I DOING ...?

TMP

TMP

NGH ...

CHAK

BACK ON A WING AND A PRAYER.

MUST BE NICE. YOU'RE A LUCKY GUY, ROLAND.

HA HA HA!

SO GETTIN' INJURED WAS YOUR TICKET OFF THE FRONT LINES, HUH?

BLUB BLUB

SHAK SHAK

HUH?

WAIT...

IS THAT YOU, ADVISOR?

IT'S ADVI-SOR!

IT IS HIM!

WHOOA!

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あ

あ

NO WAY! IT CAN'T BE!

MAJOR?

CORPO-RAL?

GEN-ERAL?

YOU'RE REALLY ALIVE! THIS IS INCREDIBLE!

...

WE LOOKED EVERYWHERE FOR YOU! WHEN WE COULDN'T FIND YOU, WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!

Banged up, but still.

SLAP SLAP

HOLY HECK. YOU GOT BIG!

NNGH

YOU...

YOU GUYS ...

PLIP

PLIP

STILL THE CRYBABY AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.

BUT ...

WHOA, HEY NOW! WHAT'S WITH ALL THE TEARS?

TO HELP WITH THE FESTIVAL DECORATIONS.

RIGHT... AND THAT DAY, DIDN'T YOU LEAVE TO GO SOMEWHERE?

RIGHT AFTER WE LEFT, BOOM.

YEAH, THAT WAS IT! AND WE WENT CHASING AFTER YOU.

...FOR YOUR DEATHS.

I'VE BLAMED MYSELF ...

...ALL THIS TIME...

THE ONE THAT I'D FOUND FOR US TO PLAY IN...

THE FIRST BOMBS FELL RIGHT ON THAT WAREHOUSE.

YEAH ...

BUT YOU MADE IT, ADVISOR. WHAT A RELIEF.

AND I LOST A BROTHER.

I MEAN, I DID LOSE A FEW CLASSMATES THAT DAY.

THIS TIME, ALL FOUR OF US'LL BE ON THE WESTALIS TEAM!

NOW LET'S ALL GO KICK SOME OSTANIAN BUTT!

EVEN IF WE ARE ALL JUST PRIVATES, INSTEAD OF BEING CORPORALS AND STUFF.

Ha ha ha!

CUT THAT OUT! I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT!

OH MAAAN... FORGIVE MY IMPERTINENCE, SIR!

PURELY BY CHANCE! ALL OUR OFFICERS KEPT DYING IN COMBAT, SO...

WAIT! YOU'RE A SERGEANT ?!

...IS TO HAVE FUN WITH YOU GUYS LIKE WE USED TO!

ALL I WANT ...

...

THERE'S A GREAT RESTAURANT IN THE NEXT TOWN OVER!

ARE YOU FREE THIS WEEKEND?

WELL... AS SOON AS YOU GET BACK, LET ME KNOW!

PROM-ISE ME!

YOU BET!

HEY, ROLAND! GET THOSE ONIONS OVER HERE ALREADY!

IS THAT SO...

OH... THAT'S JUST A NICKNAME.

ROLAND? BUT YOUR NAME'S [redacted] ?

THEY SAY WE'RE BEING MOBILIZED FOR THE ROBERTS CAMPAIGN.

OUR SQUAD'S ACTUALLY BEING DEPLOYED TONIGHT.

LATER ON, I WOULD LEARN...

IF I'D KNOWN THE DETAILS OF THAT OPERATION, COULD I HAVE STOPPED THEM?

NO.

IF I'D KNOWN WHAT THE ENEMY WAS PLANNING, COULD I HAVE STOPPED THE WHOLE OPERATION?

ALL THAT CAME BACK OF MY FRIENDS WERE THREE DOG TAGS.

...THAT THE OPERATION THEY WERE ASSIGNED TO WAS ILL-CONCEIVED AND RECK-LESSLY PLANNED.

IGNO-RANCE IS WEAK-NESS.

IGNO-RANCE ISN'T BLISS.

IGNO-RANCE IS A SIN.

I THOUGHT THERE WOULDN'T BE A WAR AT ALL.

I'D BEEN CONVINCED THEY'D ALL DIED IN THE BOMBING.

I HATED THE ENEMY WITHOUT KNOWING WHY. I PICKED UP A GUN WITHOUT KNOWING WHY. I OBEYED MY COUNTRY WITHOUT KNOWING WHY.

I DIDN'T HAVE THAT SORT OF POWER.

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO GET THAT SORT OF POWER.

I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING.

I NEVER DID.

I DIDN'T KNOW THE REAL REASON THE WAR HAD STARTED.

CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
トン
トン
トン
トン
CHOP
THIS WHOLE WORLD IS ONE GIANT ONION.
120 BOILING
....THERE ARE GONNA BE TEARS.
BIG AND ROUND, WITH ONE FALSE LAYER AFTER ANOTHER. AND IF YOU CUT THROUGH THOSE LAYERS OF LIES...
?
"O"
THEY AREN'T FOR SALE.
So don't touch that.
I'M SORRY, BUT THESE ARE MILITARY RATIONS.

YES. I'M IN THE MILITARY.

TMP スタ TMP スタ

IT'S WHAT I **WANTED** YOU TO THINK.

...

IS HE MILI-TARY?

THMP

TMP スタ TMP スタ

WHO IS THIS GUY?

WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?

ALTHOUGH I DON'T HAVE A RANK OR INSIGNIA.

BUT IT ALSO HAPPENS TO BE TRUE.

OR IS IT [redacted] ?

ROLAND SPOOFY.

NO, WAIT.

IN THIS DAY AND AGE, THAT SORT OF THING WILL GET A MAN INVESTIGATED FOR ESPIONAGE, YOU KNOW.

A SHAME THAT A REUNION WITH OLD FRIENDS EXPOSED YOUR LITTLE RUSE.

THAT'S QUITE THE FEAT.

SO YOU USED THE IDENTITY OF A DEAD OLDER MAN FROM YOUR HOMETOWN IN ORDER TO ENLIST BEFORE YOU WERE OF LEGAL AGE.

HE KNOWS MY REAL NAME!...

!!

NO...

YOU'RE... MILITARY POLICE?

...

AND I'VE COME HERE TO RECRUIT YOU.

I'M MILITARY *INTELLI-GENCE.*

IN THIS DAY AND AGE, NO NATION CAN EVEN BEGIN TO FIGHT WITHOUT IT.

THE STRONGEST AND MOST ESSENTIAL WEAPON OF ALL.

INFORMATION.

BUT THERE'S A WEAPON THAT WILL SUIT IT BETTER THAN ANY FIREARM.

YOU'VE GOT REAL TALENT, SERGEANT SPOOFY.

WOULD YOU MIND LENDING US ONE OF YOURS?

AND YET, WE'RE ALWAYS SHORTHANDED.

PACK YOUR BAGS AND BE AT THE SOUTH STATION AT NOON ON TUESDAY. WEAR CIVILIAN CLOTHES.

I'LL EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER.

TOSS

I DO HOPE YOU'LL AGREE TO HELP OUT.

FOR THE SAKE OF WINNING THIS WAR.

SHUP

OR I'LL HAVE YOU COURT-MARTIALED.

BY WHICH I MEAN, JOIN US.

!!

KLHZ

...WON'T BRING THEM BACK NOW.

ALL THE INFORMA-TION IN THE WORLD...

NOTHING I DO WILL ALLOW ME TO RETURN TO THOSE DAYS AGAIN.

THEY'RE GONE FOR GOOD.

FSSHHH

2

YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE ME?

THE COMPANY COMMANDER APPROVED MY TRANSFER WITHOUT A WORD.

I GUESS YOU REALLY ARE WHO YOU CLAIM.

FWOOM

TOSS

HEY!

YEAH.

IS THAT EVERY-THING YOU BROUGHT FROM THE BAR-RACKS?

GRRP

GIVE IT HERE.

IT'S SMART TO BE SUSPICIOUS.

GOOD.

IN OUR LINE OF WORK, EVEN RIGHT AND WRONG CAN'T BE TRUSTED.

YOU NEED TO TOSS AWAY YOUR NAME AND RANK TOO. FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR COUNTRY, YOU NEED TO BE A SHADOW.

SER-GEANT SPOOFY ...

OR RATHER, [redacted].

SO I DON'T CARE.

THERE'S NO ONE LEFT WHO KNOWS THAT NAME ANYWAY.

THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE?

HUH?

AND FOR THAT MATTER ...

MY COUNTRY AND WINNING THIS WAR...

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THOSE THINGS EITHER.

Wheee!

Ha ha!

NO REASON.

NO REASON AT ALL.

HM...

CHOOOO

COME WITH ME, YOU LITTLE LIAR.

GLINT

I WILL BE YOUR NEW COMMANDING OFFICER.

MY ORDERS ARE TO WHIP YOU INTO A FIRST-RATE INTELLIGENCE OPERATIVE THROUGH THE HARSH-EST MEANS NECES-SARY.

PREPARE YOUR-SELF.

KRAKL

TMBL

TMBL

KRACKLE

WAAAAAH

HUFF! HUFF!

OH, GOOD, YOU'RE AWAKE.

YOU WERE REALLY TOSSING AND TURNING!

JOLT

ガバッ

AAH!

"LOID'S" HOUSE...

OH. RIGHT.

WHERE THE HECK...?

NO... I DON'T REMEMBER.

WERE YOU HAVING A BAD DREAM, PAPA?

WHY DO I SMELL BLOOD, AND DUST, AND GUNPOWDER?

WHY DO I FEEL LIKE I WAS SOMEWHERE I HAVEN'T SEEN IN A LONG, LONG TIME?

PAT

PAT

IT'S OKAY. THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

THERE, THERE.

I GOT A TONITRUS BOLT, AND YOU FELL DOWN.

WHY WAS I ASLEEP ON THE SOFA ANYWAY...?

?

S-STOP THAT. I'M FINE.

I'M SORRY I MESSED UP, PAPA.

WHOOSH

NOOO! EVIL PAPA IS BACK!!!

I'M NOT ANGRY YET.

...

THE DAMAGE TO OPERATION STRIX IS—

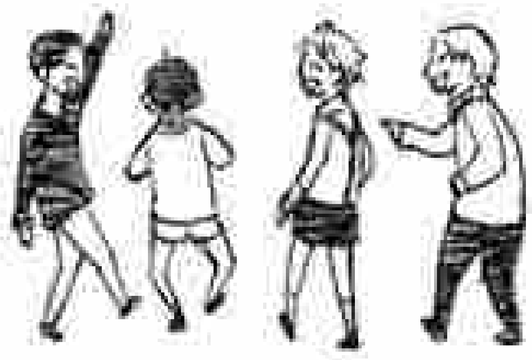
SIGH ...

THAT'S RIGHT...

NOD

BUT IT BROUGHT YOU CLOSER TO DAMIAN, RIGHT?

PLAN B'S GOING SWIMMERLY!



WELL, THAT'S A GOOD THING, DON'T YOU THINK?

FRIENDS ARE IMPOR-TANT.

CHERISH THEM.

SOOOUP! SUPERHOT SOOOUP!

WE STILL HAVE PLENTY OF ONIONS. WHAT SHOULD I MAKE?

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

W-WORF!

HEH HEH... SOUNDS LIKE I'D BETTER GET DINNER STARTED.

To be continued!